

**STANDARD PATENT**  
**SAFETY SYSTEM**

**[MONTHLY, ONE PENNY]**

## C. LEHANE.



## THE TAXES.

at the present time the capitalist class about the question of Import Duties. The Conservative friends of the Government would that a large amount of the duty on wheat should be taken off the working-class. This is a proposal, to the foreigner "dump" our markets, underselling the foreigner, and thereby bringing about a depression by preventing the home trader from selling his goods. The latter outcry is the "foreigner's" market owing to the tariff wall erected around it to keep out the foreigner's goods and keep them off his market, then the English manufacturer will be able to sell his goods at a "dump" and thus "dump" the foreigner's market. The latter outcry is the "foreigner's" market owing to the tariff wall erected around it to keep out the foreigner's goods and keep them off his market, then the English manufacturer will be able to sell his goods at a "dump" and thus "dump" the foreigner's market. The latter outcry is the "foreigner's" market owing to the tariff wall erected around it to keep out the foreigner's goods and keep them off his market, then the English manufacturer will be able to sell his goods at a "dump" and thus "dump" the foreigner's market.

The Liberal friends of the Government, on the other hand, claim that the "dumping" of our "trade" and the "dumping" of our "trade" is due to the abolition of the Corn Laws and the general policy of Free Trade. "Our" wealth has increased by leaps and bounds, and "our" prosperity is marvellous. In fact, that if Mr. Chamberlain proposes to increase the tax on wheat from the 3d. or 4d. increase in the retail price of the loaf of bread will cost the twelve or thirteen millions of people already on or below the poverty line into the deepest depths of misery and wretchedness. It would not need a very elaborate calculation to estimate the date when, if "our" prosperity continues, the whole of the working world will be in the position of those before mentioned.

Therefore, say the Free Traders, are the "real friends" of the working-class, they call upon that class to vote them into possession of the political machinery for the purpose of saving the working class from the dire evil that is about to be inflicted upon them. Then, some cantankerous person, perhaps, might say that this party is chiefly concerned with saving their food, so that the cost of production of wheat, food, may, as a consequence, be charged to that following the abolition of the Corn Laws, these humane manufacturers reduced wages in the textile industries by an average of about 14 per cent; that they opposed the Factory Acts, which had been introduced to protect women and children, with all their power; that when returned to power in 1892 upon the well-known Newcastle program, while they sent soldiers to shoot down the miners of Featherstone and a gunboat to "punish" the dockers at Hull, they quite forgot to pass measures such as Payment of Members, Triennial Parliaments, One Man One Vote, Payment of Election Expenses, which they had pledged themselves to make law. Another might draw attention to the fact that a large section of this party import raw material and use large quantities of flour, etc., in the manufacture of cotton and other textile, and that they are

quite as much concerned in cheap wheat for this reason as for giving the worker a big loaf.

The serious-minded worker who does his own thinking will probably at first be amazed at the money, the energy and dexterity expended by both sections of the capitalist class, or its agents, in this campaign—all for the benefit of the working-class. He watches them handling figures and statistics in a way that must cause Cinquevalle to turn green with envy, each proving splendidly that the poverty and misery is bound to increase if the proposals of the other side are adopted! If, however, he turns from the assertions, contradictions, and general bewilderment that surrounds these howling Cheap Jacks, and examines the facts of the situation calmly, his amazement will disappear.

In any form of civilised society certain common expenses have to be met by the members of that society in one way or another, depending upon the conditions and form of that society. As the wealth of all communities can only be produced by applying human labour to the raw material provided by Nature, it follows that the working-class produces all the wealth in existence, no matter to what purpose it may be turned. But here a significant fact comes to light. While the working class dig the ore, construct the machines, build the mills and factories, lay the railways—in short, bring forth all the instruments and machinery necessary for the production and distribution of wealth, yet they own neither these instruments nor the wealth when it is produced. It does not matter in what direction or with what object any member of the working class wishes to apply his energies in the production of wealth, he will find a barrier to that application in the fact that some individual or individuals belonging to another class own and control the raw material and the machinery necessary to convert it, and who will only permit the worker to operate these instruments upon the condition that the wealth produced is left in the capitalist's possession to dispose of as he pleases.

Of course, it will be easily understood that if there were no working class to exploit, the capitalist class would have to work to keep itself, and they are therefore bound to return to the workers sufficient of the wealth they have produced to keep them in a state of working efficiency and to reproduce their kind.

The capitalists may differ among themselves as to the exact point at which this standard may be fixed, but they are unanimous in fighting to retain for themselves all above this limit. The workers, on the other hand, are always struggling to increase their share of the wealth produced, with varying degrees of success, which results in individual or sectional wages varying, but makes the return to the class as a whole a close approximation to the cost of living under the conditions obtaining in that society. It thus becomes evident that the taxes must be paid out of the surplus wealth extracted from the workers by the capitalists; this explains not only the latter's interest in the question of taxation, but also why it is of small moment to the worker.

"But," says the Free Trader, "all taxes fall upon the consumer, and therefore the workman will have to pay increased prices for the articles he purchases if a tax is placed upon them." The obvious retort is that as the working class are the only producers, but not the only consumers, it is from the former point of view that they should look at the matter. But apart from this, the statement is not true of itself. Prices are determined primarily by the cost of production, and immediately by supply and demand. The variations in the latter cause prices to fluctuate, but the point above and below which they move, and tend to come to rest, is the value of the article—or, technically, all commodities exchange upon the average at their value. If owing to circumstances a commodity were sold above its value, fresh capital would soon be turned in that direction, and competition and extra supply would cause prices to fall. If being sold below its value, part of the capital would be withdrawn, and the diminished supply, other things remaining constant, would cause prices to rise to the normal level.

Whatever may be the conditions at any given time, the capitalist always sells at the

highest price the market will bear at that period. Articles that are easily produced are often taxed without affecting the retail price at all, as shown in the taxes on tea, beer, and spirits, while in the case of tobacco one grade is sold retail at a price almost equalling the tax imposed! When the 1s duty was laid on corn the price of bread rose in a few districts, but in the majority of cases it remained stationary, and when the duty was removed the wholesale price of corn rose! House rent offers another good example. Often when the landlord raises the rent he makes the excuse that the rates have gone up, but he never offers to lower them when rates go down, showing thereby that it is only an excuse, and that while competition for houses continues rents will rise. When the Central London Railway was opened the competition for houses in Shepherd's Bush increased largely, and as a consequence rents rose as much as 3s. in the £. This was the limit offered for the time being, and when shortly after rates were raised by a good sum, the rents remained unaltered. At West Ham, which is the most heavily rated district in England, rents are falling, while rates are rising, owing to the decreased demand for houses. These illustrations show how little the question of rates affects the workers who pay rent.

This is still more true regarding so-called monopolies whose productions are sold at the highest price obtainable consistent with the carrying on of business, and even if they were taxed up to the point of absorbing profits, other things remaining constant, the business might close, but obviously prices could not be raised. An instance from Australia may be cited. The Standard Oil Company have a practical monopoly of the petroleum oil entering that continent, and until a short time ago a duty of 3d. per gallon was levied upon it. The company charged 6d. per gallon to the retailers, who paid the tax and sold the oil at 11d. per gallon. An agitation was set on foot to have this tax taken off "the poor man's oil," which after some perseverance was effected.

On the same day that the duty was abolished Rockefeller raised the price to the retailers to 9d. a gallon, who sold it to the consumers at the same price as before—in other words, Rockefeller was relieved from paying the tax that until then he had paid upon his product entering the country, and the working class were in exactly the same position as before. In London the abolition of the coal duty levied by the City authorities did not alter the retail price one farthing.

It is thus easily seen that if the whole of the taxes were abolished it would not benefit the working class unless competition among the capitalists drove prices down in proportion, and then others would benefit as well, while the workers would have to resist a reduction of wages.

The question thus becomes reduced to one of a quarrel between the big and the little thieves as to the apportionment of the cost of maintaining the present system, and is expressed chiefly by the small middle-class forming various tax-reform parties with the object of curtailing the powers of the monopolists and big capitalists. Being only really concerned with the problem of how to stop the robbery under which they suffer, the workers should take no stock of the quarrel over the paying of the expenses of the burglary. Whether he is living in a country whose fiscal policy is based on Free Trade or in one in which it is based upon Protection; whether the country is highly taxed or otherwise; or the reverse, makes little difference; the worker finds that whatever of the above conditions he may be under, a subsistence is all that upon an average he obtains.

Firmly gripping the above sound and logical position, The Socialist Party, the only party truly representing the workers, makes its attack upon the central pivotal position—to capture the political machinery and therewith control of economic powers and social forces—taxation and the armed forces of the nation, for the purpose of ending the robbery by overthrowing the system of Capitalism, emancipating the working class, and laying the foundations of the Socialist Co-operative Commonwealth.

J. FITZGERALD.



414. communication presentation to be referred to the Education Committee. James Earl Ray, Barry M. Seal and his associates have made all of these to the writer. The testimony of the prosecution. Though we cannot estimate today to our limited power, the public all we may realize today, that we will receive a criminal conviction.

Twelve Months	...	...	...	2016
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Orders for Subscriptions, Copies of the Paper, and Special Advertisements should be sent to G. Lohans, Sec., the S. P. of G. S., Communist Club, 107 Charlotte Street, Finsbury Square, London, W.C., who will also receive payment for same.

## EDITORIAL

## The Faculty of Inform.

THE Socialist Party of Great Britain has often been asked why they have not drawn up a programme of measures for the partial redress of these evils which most immediately affect the position of the working class. "Should we not strive to palliate the existing misery?" "Should we not seek to foster the emotional differences existing among the capitalists so that we may use them in the interests of the working class?" "Should we not temporarily support, or form temporary alliances with, other political parties while working for common ends"? These and other questions of like import are constantly being put to us by non-members of our party. We now propose to answer them.

The basis of modern society is, economically, the holding by one section of the community of the means necessary for producing and distributing the means of living of the whole of the community, i.e., the ownership by a class of the whole wealth of society. As against them there is the vast mass of the people owning nothing but their "labour-power," their power of working.

The worker being compelled to sell this power of working on the labour market, in return for his means of livelihood, has interests diametrically opposed to those of the employer who buys his activity. Hence two classes with conflicting interests, constantly meeting on the labour market, must necessarily engage in a struggle in which each combatant can gain only at the expense of the other. Such a struggle between classes forms a class war.

Economically, the working class are impotent so long as the employing class has possession of political power. Therefore, the class struggle must manifest itself as a political struggle for class supremacy. The working class can only gain their ends by taking possession of the political machine and using it so as to gain their own economic emancipation. This can be done only by themselves, and the struggle in which they must take part to secure this is a class war—the working class against the employing class.

The basis of a Socialist Party in any country must, therefore, be a recognition of the fact that the material interests of the working class are in entire opposition to those of the employing class, that is, the recognition of the class

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And this has been the strategy of the Communist Party of the United States. These parties have succeeded in opening the door to all other parties, and they are extremely organized. When they are in a position to make a move, they are strong of will, and they are very successful in their alliances as they did for instance in the case of the United Front with the Liberal Party, for the purpose of securing universal suffrage, they were able to remain as far from securing their desired reform as ever they were. This then is our first objection that such parties compromise the issue and hinders our success.

Our next objection lies in the fact that any such dependence upon other political parties for their assistance assumes the maintenance of a majority of members on our legislative bodies who are not class-conscious representatives of the working class. So long as that remains the case, so long will the legislature be controlled by middle class men, by capitalists. Every such capitalistically controlled legislature secures the control of the administrative and judicial functions by the capitalists.

The result of this is that every measure carried through Parliament is carried through by those whose position makes it necessary that those enactments should be piecemeal and ineffective. They will, therefore, endeavour to reduce every concession to the point of impotency except in cases where they think to maintain their power by greater concessions. In this latter case they know they can depend upon their second line of defence—the administration, of those laws which will cause the laws to remain a dead letter.

We have only to study the legislation of the last half of the nineteenth century to find that each of those phases of the economic legislation of the middle class parties plentifully exist. We find that the administration of the law being in the hands of the capitalist class, will be carried on by them in such a way as not to be dangerous to their own class interests.

Any "blame-buck" dealing with any phase of working class life, will show instances innumerable of the neglect of the Local Government Board, or of the Borough Councils, or of the County Councils, in applying the laws already in existence. Housing Acts and Public Health Acts and Acts for the prevention of women returning to work at too early a period after child-birth, and Factory and Workshop Acts are not efficiently carried out, while powers vested in governing bodies are hardly ever exercised: Thus we read with regard to the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke that:

"There are people in Manchester who systematically pollute the air and pay the fine, finding it much cheaper to do so than to

The first of these was the fact that the United States had been unable to secure the cooperation of the British government in its efforts to bring about a general disarmament conference. The second was the fact that the United States had been unable to secure the cooperation of the French government in its efforts to bring about a general disarmament conference.

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That with reference to the employment of aged, infirm, or disabled persons, arrangements should be made to enable the employer to offer work to such persons without incurring undue risk of paying compensation."

We are, therefore, faced by the realization that the trying to secure agreement for the palliation of the evils of the existing class-divided society is useless. The work in control of the legislative, administrative, and judicial machinery of the community can always dodge any such partial attacks upon their position, can always find loopholes to escape from any concession suggesting to endanger their position.

The only thing which will secure the alleviation of our misery and our wage slavery is the propagation of the principles of Socialism and the building up of a class conscious Socialist party, prepared to wrest at the earliest possible moment the whole powers of government from the hands of those who at present control them.

When a strong Socialist party, fighting directly for the establishment of a Socialist regime, and prepared in their progress to secure any advantage which will act as a new fighting ground in their further fight is organised, then the capitalists will be only too ready to offer and to give each and all of those palliatives as a sop to the growing Socialist forces in the country.

We are, therefore, to recognize all the time that it is only possible to secure any real benefit for the people when the people themselves become class conscious, when behind the Socialists in Parliament and on other bodies there stands a solid phalanx of men clear in their knowledge of Socialism and clear in their knowledge that the only way to secure the Socialist Commonwealth of the future is to depend only upon the efforts of themselves and those who have the same class conscious opinions. Therefore we have no palliative programme. The only palliative we shall ever secure is the Socialist Society of the future gained by fighting uncompromisingly at all times and in every season.



# **Long Drink.**

CHAUMBLAIN has evidently undermined the economic basis of the Thordilich Branch of the S.D.F. The slanders have resolved:

"That, being victims of the great distress amongst our fellow-workers in London, caused by the terrible depression in trade, and the L.C.C. to have the building of new mansions for the Thames traffic carried out as far as possible on the Thames, thereby afflicting to some extent the suffering of the workers of this great metropolis."

This contribution towards the solution of the unemployed problem will, doubtless, receive due consideration from the L.C.C. and the Traffic Reform League. For as alleged Socialist opposition to advocate preferential treatment in connection with the project, and to suggest dealing with the "incurable" unemployed problem in one locality by dumping of intensifying it in another. Further, for membership of the Chamberlain's "Unemployed" Compensation. We must know, whether they join the Chamberlain's General Election faction.

Mr. Featherstone Asquith and Mr. Alden are concerned in the L.C.C. when the *Daily News* writes: "The Liberal candidate for Finsbury, Mr. Alden, is a man who is reported to have been the worst of the Tories to strike a blow at the Government by supporting the Liberal candidate. But when Mr. Steadman, being anything but a dummy, took to the Liberal faction of the master class? Twelve months ago the Tribune, Mr. Alden, obtained a letter which had been sent to W. Thorne's Election Committee, part of which read as follows:—

"I understand of the S.D.F. accept the aid of W. C. Steadman, who runs as a Liberal Labour candidate. This I consider they are entirely bound to support. Steadman's candidature is asked to do so. No class conscious Socialist could do so, as only so recently as last September he was the chief speaker at a Liberal demonstration at Gray's, at which he is reported to have urged the audience to return a Liberal member at the next election. Socialists cannot logically support candidates who ally themselves with any section of the Capitalist Party, and, therefore, cannot honestly accept aid from them for Socialist candidates."

What do the *Labour Leader* and the *Clarion* expect? "Can the leopard change his spots, or the Ethiopian his skin?"

According to the *Daily Express*, it is an unpleasant and appalling fact that lunacy is steadily increasing in England and Wales, and it is estimated that there were one person in every 327 was certified as insane in 1894, the figures for 1904 are one in 238. But to the Socialist there is nothing startling in the fact. As the struggle for existence becomes more intense, as we speed up, as the raging, tearing, hurrying and scurrying process us, and as the position of the worker becomes more precarious, we must expect that the mental equilibrium will be disturbed. The returns show that the numbers of insane known to the Commissioners have for some time past been increasing at a greater rate than the growth of population. While the rate of increase in the population during the last decade was 12.2 per cent., the rate of increase of the insane was 24.4 per cent.

Those fanatical teetotalers who declare that it is only necessary to close public-houses in order to empty our lunatic asylums, should ponder over the fact that the Commissioners certify that alcoholic intemperance is responsible for not more than 22.8 per cent. of insane males and 9.5 per cent. of insane females. We

have no desire to minimise the effect of these figures, but it must not be forgotten that in many cases where intemperance is certified as a cause, it is itself an effect of the overcrowding, insanitary, ill-ventilated, and generally unhealthy conditions under which the workers work and exist. Dr. David Walsh, in his paper on "Unwholesome Workshops and Drink," declared that anything which weakened the health of the individual predisposed him to the use of alcohol, and no sensible person will dispute this. There is only one way by which the health of the people can be secured and maintained, and that is by the reorganisation of Society upon the basis laid down by the Socialist Party of Great Britain.

As Mr. Featherstone Asquith is now denying that he was responsible for the shooting of the miners, it will be useful for our propagandists to note the following reference to the matter which he made in his speech at Glasgow on the 17th October, 1895:

"The year that had gone by had been distinguished by a large number of deplorable industrial disputes. Those disputes had culminated in what had been a most serious and regrettable conflict—he alluded to the dispute between the coalmasters and colliers in the Midland parts of England. In his character as Secretary of State for the Home Department, it had been his duty to take executive action in more than one of those cases for the maintenance of the law and for the prevention of disorder, and he accepted the full responsibility for everything that had been done."

Asquith is a Liberal. So also are Bell, Crooks, Henderson, Shackleton, Steadman, and others receiving the support of the L.R.C. The L.L.P. openly supports the L.R.C., but the S.D.F. does not affiliate to it nationally, although it permits its prominent members to attend the Conferences and be adopted as L.R.C. candidates. W. Thorne has not yet been called upon to resign his membership of the S.D.F. for having decided to run as a "Labour" candidate, although for the same backing-down A. E. Holmes was requested to send in his resignation. Moreover, since Thorne has fallen into line with the L.R.C. conditions, he has been publicly supported by Quelch, Jones, Hayday, and other well-known members of the S.D.F., at a demonstration at which he declared that:

"he believed the eight hours day was the most important of all questions."

For of such is the S.D.F.! Quelch and his friends support Thorne; he supports Alden, Crooks, Steadman, and Co.; Alden, Steadman, and Co. support Asquith and Co.; and E. Belfort Bax writes letters, which are published in the Press, from the National Liberal Club! No wonder we are asked by a correspondent whether the S.D.F. still assert that there is no difference between Liberals and Tories, and whether we can explain what they mean by their continual references to "keeping free from entangling alliances?" We cannot: we give it up.

At the annual conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association held last month at Bournemouth, the President in his opening address, said that the Public Health Acts could not be administered in many places owing to the fact that the officers held their appointments from year to year, and were in consequence dependent upon the goodwill of individual members of the authority appointing them. What member of the association of some years' experience had not been covertly or openly threatened by some member or members of his authority, or by those aspiring to the office, for either attacking his insanitary property, seeking his quise out—or sampling his adulterated—food? Unsound, and so long as the governing institutions are controlled by the capitalist class, the legislation and administration will be in the interest of that class. And mere Labourism will not alter it. Many a "Labour" member makes the best possible supporter and defender of Capitalism and its works.

The capitalist press is filled with articles concerning the out-of-works, the homeless, free meals, and other pestilence to which the capitalist class devotes its attention when other things pall. There is no question about things being terribly bad, and that they have not yet touched bottom. In the business world there is a general complaint of slackness of trade and tightness of money—the latter being perennial with the wage-worker. Speaking for the Church Army last month, Mr. Colin F. Campbell told a *Daily Telegraph* representative that he shared the general opinion that the approaching winter was likely to be one of very great severity for the poorest of the poor. During the summer months their Labour Homes had been without exception full, and he had never known that to be the case during the 12 years he had been there. There were more of the better class of people asking help than there had ever been. Canon Scott Holland, preaching in St. Paul's Cathedral on September 11th, gave the following word-picture of London to-day:

"Look at London to-day! Sum up its story! It's poverty! It's nakedness! It's suffering! There it all waters! Can we not go closer down into it? Can we not fling into it our reason, our imagination, our conscience—so that we actually see what the unhappy see, and feel what the wronged feel, and burn with their indignation, and pray with their prayers? This is not done—not done even so much as it was done. There is a slackening of social interest—a deadening of social reform. People do not care as they did. There is no movement. Everything that we hoped for is caught in some dismal backwater. Yet the poor babies still die in their hundreds, simply through the murderous infamy of the conditions into which they are born. And the sweated women still toil from morning to night for a starvation wage, as literally, as intolerably, as ever! And the aged poor are more than ever left behind out of the marching host. And the weak invalids are still squeezed down to the level of the criminals and the loafers. We should never let such things be if we really identified ourselves with those who suffer under them—if we took their sorrows as our sorrow—if we were made one with their need."

Such is the picture, not overdrawn in the slightest detail. Cyriacs will note that it has been drawn in the chief institution of the Christian Church, that class organisation which has so ably assisted the capitalists in their efforts to keep the people down. And what is said here of London can be said of every large and wealthy city throughout the world. It is Hell! After two thousand years of Christianity, after centuries of middle-class domination, after years of Tory and Liberal Government, London is Hell! And no matter where we turn, one problem forces itself upon us and demands solution. In Monarchic Britain, in Kaiser-inflicted Germany, in Republican France, in Free America, in Despotism Russia, it is Hell for the proletariat. The problem of world-wide poverty in the midst of plenty will never be solved by sermons, prayers, Labour Homes, or Labour Leaders. It will only be solved when the people assume the ownership and control of the means of life, and produce for their own use instead of for idlers. To prepare the proletariat for this complete revolution is the mission of The Socialist Party of Great Britain.—K.

A New York cable states: "A law which comes into operation to-day (Sept. 1st, 1904), makes it bribery for an employer to pay money to a labour leader to avert a strike. Hitherto blackmail of this kind has been exceedingly common."

## **LITERATURE AGENCY.**

Branches and members should purchase their literature through the Party Agent, F. C. Watts, 154, Ashmore Road, Paddington, London, W. Write for particulars as to terms, etc.

## **CENTRAL ECONOMIC AGENCY.**

The class meets weekly and is free to all. On application to J. Fitzgerald, 34, Wilmington Square, London, W., full particulars will be sent.



## THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

### OBJECT.

The establishment of a system of society based upon the ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community.

## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

### THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

#### BOLDS—

That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master-class, and the consequent enslavement of the working-class by whose labour alone wealth is produced.

That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle, between those who possess and those who produce but do not possess.

That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working-class from the domination of the master-class, by the transfer into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the working-class.

That in the order of social evolution the working-class is the class which has to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the whole class will involve the emancipation of all mankind without distinction of sex.

That this emancipation must be the work of the working-class.

That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working-class must organise consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilege, aristocratic and plutocratic.

That as all political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interest of the working-class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master-class, the party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.

The Socialist Party of Great Britain, therefore, enters the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist, and calls upon the members of the working-class of this country to muster under its banner to the end that a speedy termination may be wrought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

### FROM OUR BRANCHES.

*Reports from Branches for insertion under this heading must be in season the 10th of each month, otherwise they cannot appear.*

#### BATTERSEA.

Sick and weary of the conflicting tactics and vacillating policy of the S.D.F., the members of this branch, some of them veterans in the Socialist movement, were among the first to come forward and raise the red flag from the mire through which it was being dragged, and are proud of having assisted in the formation of The Socialist Party of Great Britain, which now so worthily bears that flag aloft. To combat the confusing effects of the compromise and opportunism of the S.D.F. as well as the influence of the local Tammany Hall-like organisation of the "Statement of Labour" and his "healers," we have all through the summer conducted a vigorous campaign, holding three propaganda meetings every Sunday, besides the usual week night meetings. As a result we are able to report a gratifying increase in membership. In addition we have an Economic Class, meeting

on Thursdays, and a History Class, meeting on Fridays, both commencing at 8 p.m., to which all members of the party are heartily invited. The only condition of membership is regular attendance.

We of the Battersea branch fully realise that all our time and energies are required for the work of educating the workers to a clear conception of the causes of their misery, and of organising them so that they will concentrate all their efforts upon the capture of the political machine which is held and used by the master class as an instrument of oppression and exploitation. We have no time, therefore, to waste in appeals to the capitalist class for measures of reform, because we know that nothing short of complete economic freedom, and nothing short of the overthrow of capitalism, will put an end to the system under which the robbery and oppression of the worker goes on.

No, comrades, what we want the oppressor will never give. The workers themselves must achieve their emancipation. "He who would be free must himself strike the blow." It is our part to show the worker how the blow must be struck.

We echo the cry of our comrade Lebane. The watchword is Onward! to the Socialist Republic. —THE MAN WITH THE RED FLAG.

#### EAST LONDON.

This branch is not very large in numbers, but we try to make up by energy what we lack in that respect. The district we are working is, perhaps, the most poverty-stricken in the metropolis, and should by a lot of hard work and well organised, offer good ground to spread the seed of Socialism and build up a strong branch of The Socialist Party.

The far eastern portion, viz., Poplar, Bromley, Stepney, is the hot-bed of the alleged Labour leader, who, so far as possible, does everything to confuse the minds of the working class as to their correct position, and as a consequence the working class are apathetic and indifferent regarding their social welfare.

The work of this branch is to give a clear exposition of the conflict of interests between the working class and the master class, which in this district is made most intensely manifest, to arouse that enthusiasm which arises from class consciousness, and to organise the workers into The Socialist Party determined to wage war against Capitalism and all its supporters, with the ultimate object of securing its complete overthrow.—W.W.

#### EDMONTON.

ONE of our most successful meetings was held on Sept. 4, addressed by Comrade Lebane. I mention it particularly because at that meeting we introduced THE SOCIALIST STANDARD and sold it in large numbers, because the current issue of *Justice* had a reference to us in which the comic element strove in vain to outdo the false, but which our comrade, a comparative stranger to the local circumstances, was easily able to thoroughly discredit; and also because as a result of the foregoing, the meeting was made the occasion of those silly S.D.F. attacks we had hoped were things of the past. We realise that for some time to come considerable clearing away of misconceptions will be necessary before the Socialist party shall reap the full reward of its labour.—A. ANDERSON.

#### FULHAM.

DESPITE the fact that we have had to open up a station for our open-air work, our propaganda meetings have been well attended; the number of THE SOCIALIST STANDARD we have been able to dispose of being very good, considering the disadvantages under which we have laboured. Judged by the character of the questions we are called upon to answer, especially in regard to alleged labour and semi-Socialist bodies, our work is beginning to tell, and there is every possibility of our numerical strength, small though it is at present, being considerably augmented in the near future. If all good Socialists, attached or unattached, would but appreciate the importance of being associated with an organisation such as ours, based as it is upon sound principles, and pursuing as it does a straight and clearly defined policy, how much more effectively would we be able to accomplish the work we are called upon to do in this district! However, we have made a commencement, and are on the way to overtake, perhaps to beat even, the Islington record.

We are endeavouring to have a series of meetings at Fulham Cross on Thursday evenings at 8.30, and if any speaker happens along that way we shall be pleased to greet him and utilise his services.—E. J. B. ALLEN, Sec.

#### ISLINGTON.

THE Comrades of "Merrie Islington" are certainly justifying their existence as a branch of the Socialist Party of Great Britain, and can, without undue egotism, look back upon a month's hard propaganda and feel highly satisfied with the results thereof.

Our morning meeting of Sunday, September 4th, in Finsbury Park, established, I believe, a record for the party. A large audience listened while Comrade Lebane stated the case for Socialism as the only solution for the many evils and problems that exist around us, and at the close of the address subscribed 15s. 4d. to our war chest, besides purchasing 8 pamphlets and 69 copies of The Socialist Standard. The rest of our Sunday meetings, although not quite such financial successes, have resulted in good sales of literature. Plenty of questions are always



...and are always astoundingly deaf with respect to the work put in by our members during the last month. We have good branch meetings and members turn up well at our weekly meetings. On Fencham Hill we are having a little more difficulty to get a meeting, but we have succeeded eventually. This has been an incentive to the other branches. The following are the results of the work put in by our members during the last month. We have good branch meetings and members turn up well at our weekly meetings. On Fencham Hill we are having a little more difficulty to get a meeting, but we have succeeded eventually. This has been an incentive to the other branches. The following are the results of the work put in by our members during the last month.

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I should like to call the attention of all comrades to the Friday evening discussions, which take place at our branch rooms, 28, High Street. We propose all comrades and friends who attend these discussions an enjoyable evening, like Oliver Twist, they will stay there.

We have been pushing The Socialist Standard well, and have already sold over 300 copies, and if we do not sell out our stock it will not be our fault.—W. Rogers.

**WATFORD.**

A MONTH of plodding endeavour, with good meetings every Sunday—good in point of attendance, good in point of literature sales, with good speakers taking the case for ineffectual Socialism so clearly that a wayfaring man though a fool could not make a mistake as to the issue.

As well as may be, we are doing the work the Socialist is called upon to do—the preliminary spade work necessary to the organisation of a class conscious working class party—and doing it in face of the added difficulties that the existence of a perfect shod of peddling reform parties—born of the ill-informed and misdirected exuberance of a few local reformers—inevitably create.

For a comparatively small town the number of these parties is, to put it mildly, abnormal, and it is no great wonder that, with so much to distract and divert their attention from the consideration of the real problem underlying their condition, the workers should not readily appreciate their class standing and the necessity for organisation upon the basis of the class struggle as the indispensable condition of successful conflict with capitalism.

If our ardent local new-party mongers (a brand new reforming body is turned out about every month) would but stop to think sometimes, they might be able to understand that every one of the insignificant and ludicrous little parties is simply a further factor making for working class confusion—simply one more division of the available working class intelligence that might otherwise be focussed upon first causes of, and real remedies for, working class ills; one more obstacle that will have to be overcome before Labour can enter into its own.

What the workers of Watford and elsewhere want is a straight lead upon a clear issue, and it is precisely because they have never had the one given them, and the other kept plainly before them; it is precisely because they have been led to follow the fantasy of reform, and have found themselves at the end of their journey in very much the position they formerly occupied, that they to-day are sullen, disconso-

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.**  
General Secretary: C. LEHANE.  
107, Chancery Lane, London, W.

**BATTERSEA.**—A. Jones, Secretary, 1, Nelson St. Meetings every Sunday, 8 p.m. at 1, Nelson St. Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**CENTRAL.**—Branch meets every Saturday at the Commercial Club, 107, Chancery Lane. Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**CARRINGTON.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**EAST LONDON.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**FULHAM.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**ISLINGTON.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**PADDINGTON.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**PECKHAM.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**SOUTH.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**TOOTING.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**WATFORD.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**WEST HAM.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**WOOD GREEN.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**late, and recalcitrant.**

And so the reformer must go into the category of working class enemies; and must be fought as strenuously as the hard-grained proletarian ignorance and apathy, the more so because he is the apathy producer, the ignorance perpetuator.—ALICE GRAY.

**WEST HAM.**

GOING strong! Held meetings every Sunday night, with one exception (speaker disappointed) since last report. STANDARDS and pamphlets selling well, latter a good sign. Assisted with meetings at Poplar and Upton. At latter place the Romford Division Branch has been formed. We are now endeavouring to arrange a combined attack of the two branches (West Ham and Romford) upon the new town of East Ham, where a Socialist Party is urgently needed, the district being very great. Unemployed demonstrations and deputations to the Council have already started. The numbers of the unemployed all over the area covered by the West Ham Union are already growing rapidly, so that they promise to be very large indeed as soon as winter sets in. I should not be surprised if the local administrative bodies do not find that they have a little more than they can handle when they attempt to deal with the "Unemployed question" this year.—G.H.

**WOOD GREEN.**

SINCE my last report, in addition to excellent meetings on Jolly Butchers' Hill, we have extended our activities to the West Green Corner of High Road, Tottenham. Our first meeting on this spot was held on Sunday evening, Sept. 4, and was certainly a success both from the standpoint of numbers and of interest, as shown by questions touching our principles. THE SOCIALIST STANDARD sold well. Meetings have been held every Sunday since with equal success, and in the very near future the Tottenham Branch of the party will surely be formed.—JOHN CRUMP.

**PRINCE OF WALES HEAD, YORK.**—Branch meets every Sunday, 8 p.m. at 1, Nelson St. Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**BOWLE LONDON.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**EDMONTON.**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

**FINSBURY PARK (ISLINGTON).**—Branch meets every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. at 1, Nelson St.

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